WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Losses of Pawan Hans

365. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pawan Hans has incurred an estimated loss of Rs. 8.70 crore up to 31st March, 1988, on the operation and maintanance of Westland fleet of helicopters; if so, since when these losses are being incurred and what are the details upto 30th September, 1988, including those on operation, maintenance, capital investment and other recurring, casual and incidental items; and

(b) what were the findings about economic feasibility/viability during the financial evaluation of the Westland Helicopter before its purchase was approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Considering that the Westland helicopters were purchased with the funds provided by U.K. as grant and that the depreciation and obsolescence should not be charged, the Westland fleet has generated cash surplus amounting to approximately Rs. 3.6 crores upto 31.3 88 and Rs. 5.37 crores upto 30.9.88 after providing for all operational, maintenance and other related costs.

(b) The project profitability over the entire life cycle of Westland helicopters, as worked out at the time of PIB approval in March, 86, was Rs. 53.54 crores.

Pesticides spraying by Vayudoot

366. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vayudoot propose to step up pesticide spraying operations due to high profits involved, as reported in the Financial Express of 10th October, 1988;

(b) whether Government are aware that as per studies undertaken the world over, it has been shown that in aerial operations only about 0.1 per cent of pesticide reaches the target; and

(c) whether some studies have been conducted in India by ICAR/ICMR; if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Vayudoot has plans to step up pesticide spraying operations as part of its overall plan.

(b) As per findings published in international literature, only about 10 to 12% of insecticides broadcast as dust and 25 to 50 per cent of those sprayed are deposited on plant surfaces and less than 1 per cent reach the target insect.

(c) Two studies carried out some years ago by the National Institute of Occupational Health had made certain observations and recommendations. The recommendations have since been followed.